The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service [illegible] a brief summary of [illegible] in the industrial, labor, [illegible] fields, and such other information [illegible] will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Nothing is more terrible than to see ignorance in action.—Goethe.

WHOLE NO. 979. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1930. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 44.

Human Rights Must Yield When Equity Guards Dollar

A Wisconsin legislative historian, in discussing the labor injunction, says:

"There can be no compromise with lawlessness. And let me say to my labor friends, if you want relief from injunctions you must interest yourself actively in the preservation of law and order in labor disputes."

The labor injunction is not intended to preserve law and order. Proof of this is found in the rare cases where strikers are convicted of criminal contempt (an act that would be criminal if no strike existed).

Violence is rebellion, in greater or less degree. Any government worthy of the name quickly accepts this challenge to its existence.

To infer that organized workers even secretly encourage violence is to test one's charity toward men who pose as students of the labor movement.

The purpose of the labor injunction is not to usurp police officials, but to secure government aid in quickly breaking strikes by outlawing legal acts. This aid can not be secured in a court of law, where constitutional rights are assured. In equity courts the judge is guided by his conscience and guarantees are ignored.

Equity, originally, did not interfere with personal rights. Control of the workers, however, is secured by the simple trick of ruling that good will, property, income, sales value and prospective profits are "property." The next step is easy—enjoin any one who interferes with the modern equity judge's definition of property.

No statutory law prohibits workers from speaking to strikebreakers. An equity court decrees that such action is illegal on the ground that if the strikebreaker ceases work this will limit output and income is reduced. "Property" is thus affected.

It may be asked: "What becomes of the unionist's constitutional rights?" The answer is: "He has no such rights. He is in a court of equity that makes its own rules. It is guided by its conscience."

In no injunction that has stripped labor of its rights has this court process been based on fear of violence. Workers are charged with "conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce"—a diplomatic way of informing the court that the strike lessens profits.

Any truth seeker will note that the purpose of these decisions is not to enforce law, but to assure income and profits. This can not be done in a court of law, but the equity judge is above and beyond all law, constitutions and guarantees. His one guide is his conscience.

The scheme is cloaked by shouts of "law observance," while government by law is replaced by government by injunction.

And men who profess to be legislative students are victims of the trick. Or they understand the game and join in the shouts for reasons they can best explain.

UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM LOOMS; AMERICA MUST FACE THIS ISSUE

Washington, Jan. 11.—Unemployment during the next ten years will be the greatest problem in the United States, according to members of the American Economic Association and the American Statistical Association at their meetings in this city.

"Rationalization of industry and improved technique"—new names for adjusting output to market demands, eliminating waste, automatic machinery and scientific processes—will result in a more or less chronic state of unemployment in the next ten-year period, according to Robert B. Warren of New York.

"Unemployment, now the nightmare of five out of every ten Europeans, has never been a problem for a sufficiently long period in the United States to influence our political thought, but it is doubtful if this blissful state will continue," he said.

The ten-year period of unemployment, now continued, will be matched by demands of workers for social insurance and other forms of relief, similar to appeals for government aid for the unemployed in Europe.

"The outstanding feature of the economic life of America in the past decade was the loss by the individual of control over his own economic salvation."

"France is the only country in Europe untroubled by unemployment," said Professor Marcus Nadler of New York University. Increased production in the past decade is the outstanding phase of European recovery from the war, he said. The existence of unemployment "on a scale unknown in the pre-war period" he attributed to the adoption of American methods of mass production.

Mechanization of industry and agriculture, with consequent dangers of unemployment, were viewed as a challenge by the economists who agreed with Henry S. Dennison of the Dennison Manufacturing Company that while "the chance of defeat must be admitted, the theory of progress as a working hypothesis of life may also be adopted."

"CHIVALRY" IS MYTH FOR WORKING WOMEN

Washington, Jan. 11.—Man's boasted "chivalry" towards women is a myth when it comes to employment, according to Miss Agnes L. Peterson, assistant director United States Women's Bureau.

A money contribution from women toward support of families, says Miss Peterson, "is often a necessity because of the inability of so many capable and deserving men to earn sufficient now to meet the family needs."

Women's earnings form the last line of defense against the wolf at the door of a large proportion of city families and the wages of wife or daughters in many homes are the one and only means of support, Miss Peterson points out.

In her analysis of the effects on the family in general and women in particular of our modern industrial age, she states: "Whereas the new conditions have brought greater freedom of self-expression and action to large numbers of women, they have brought to others new economic problems that are heavy and serious. In fact, some of the problems that must be shouldered by women challenge our present social order.

"In many cases marriage fails to bring to women the economic security considered formerly to be one of its chief advantages. Nowadays marriage may mean new financial responsibilities for wife as well as for husband."

"PULLS" ARE FACTOR IN BOYS' EDUCATION

Washington, Jan. 11.—"American educators have implicitly credited a statistical falsehood that education pays, regardless of kind, and that the college-trained man, generally, has a better income than others," Dr. Harold B. Clark of Columbia University told the American Sociological Society at its conference in this city.

While statistics may show that the college-trained man has a better income, said Dr. Clark, the fact that the average college man has wealthier parents and that much of his income superiority comes from inherited securities, or "pull," is constantly overlooked. In some cases, asserted Dr. Clark, higher education may result actually in a lower income.

It could be statistically shown, Dr. Clark pointed out, that nearly all boys who attend expensive private schools or summer camps have larger incomes in after life than those who do not, because boys who must make their way in the world seldom go to such places.

COURT BOOSTS RATES

Washington, Jan. 11.—The United States Supreme Court ruled that the Baltimore street railway company is entitled to a return of seven cent, rather than 6.26 per cent, as ordered by the Maryland public service commission.

The commission's order, the court said, borders on confiscation and is a deprivation of property in violation of the Federal Constitution. The court held that allowance for depreciation should not be based on original costs.

A vigorous dissenting opinion was made by Associate Justices Brandeis, Holmes and Stone.

STOCK OWNERS STUNG ON PARTIAL PAY PLAN

New York, Jan. 11.—A score of suits have been started in this city against the Cities Service Company by persons who bought stock on the partial payment plan, and who were stung because of the recent Wall Street collapse.

The company conducts a nation-wide stock-selling campaign. The contract becomes automatically cancelled if the purchaser's monthly payments are not made on a certain date. The company will refund the amount paid, less or plus, as the case may be, the difference between the contract price and the market price on the 15th of the month preceding.

The plaintiffs claim they are entitled to an adjustment as of October 15, when the market price was $67, or about $13 above the average at which they bought. The company contends that settlement is due as of November 15, when the stock was listed at $24, which permits no reimbursement to the purchasers.

The suit indicates one of the intricacies of self-exploitation by persons who often risk their all.

REGULATION FAILS

New York, Jan. 11.—State Public Service Commissions have failed to handle public service problems, Morris Llewllyn Cooke, consulting engineer of Philadelphia, told a State legislative committee.

Regulation as now practiced, he asserted, is a "hopeless failure." He classed the electrical industry as "a great secret society."

The reproduction value principle in establishing valuation for rate-making purposes, he said, is an irresistible temptation to human nature to inflate to the explosion point."

The fact that Public Service Commissions are functioning, and spending money, said Mr. Cooke, lulls the man in the street into a wholly false sense of security through the erroneous belief that his interests are being protected.

SICKNESS OF LABOR GAINED

Washington, Jan. 11.—The mortality rate among industrial employes was higher from sickness than accident, for the three months of 1929 than in the same period of any year since 1920, according to the United States Public Health Service.

PLUMBERS MAKE NEW RECORD; GET NATIONAL FIVE-DAY PACT

Washington, Jan. 11.—A national five-day agreement, with five and one-half day's pay, has been signed by the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada and the National Automatic Sprinkler Association. The agreement affects thousands of sprinkler fitters and their helpers, members of the United Association.

"This agreement is an epoch in the five-day week movement because it is national in its scope, the first of its kind that we have any record," said Thomas E. Burke, secretary-treasurer United Association. "The agreement also means a wage increase of $1 a day for sprinkler fitters and an increase for helpers from $5.60 a day to $6.15," said Mr. Burke.

"The several thousand sprinkler fitters of our United Association perform work throughout the United States and in all of the-five-day cities where there is considerable opposition to trade unionism.

"Our members, with their five-day week and increased wages, will serve as a continuous reminder of the value of organized effort.

"Our Association has made an advanced step, but we make acknowledgement to the liberal spirit of employers in the sprinkler fitting industry who are the first to correctly interpret, on a national scale, the trend of events."

THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN IS ON!

The Southern organizing campaign is on!

No trade unionist acquainted with Southern conditions will delude himself that this movement can be quickly brought to a triumphant end.

Many sections of that vast domain are dominated by a social outlook whose historical reasons can not fit into an industrialized community.

Old cultures, inseparable from slavery, are serviceable to the industrial autocrat. He would use this theory for selfish purposes. It is the work of trade unionists to demolish this theory and vitalize the doctrine of individual freedom that is given but lip service by those who oppose labor.

The new outlook can not be wrought overnight. Doctrines that are woven into a social fabric can only be replaced by long, tedious effort that will often be marked by discouragement and disillusion to non-thinkers.

Let no trade unionist imagine this struggle is merely "a fight for textile workers." It affects every trade and calling. Our success will not necessarily be judged by the number of members we gain in the South, but rather by the persistent effort and grit that a continent-wide movement backs the men and women who are carrying on down in Dixie.

INSURANCE ASKED FOR UNEMPLOYED

Boston, Jan. 11.—A system of unemployed insurance is provided in a bill presented to the State Legislature by Rev. Roland D. Sawyer, representative from Ware.

The bill calls for a maximum payment of $2 a day, not to exceed, however, two-thirds of the person's wages, for adults who are laid off until they find other work. Payments would be limited to a maximum of 13 weeks in a single year.

INJUNCTION HEARING FAVORED BY GOVERNOR

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 11.—Prohibition of a labor injunction without notice of hearing was favored by Governor Roosevelt in his message to the State Legislature. Jury trial when violation of these court orders is charged is urged.

"Labor legislation must keep step with changing developments in industrial life and with forward steps in social welfare," said the Governor in presenting this program:

Inclusion of occupational diseases in compensation law. Raising of the limit for compensation to $25 a week so as to include all types of disabilities.

"The present distinction between partial and total disabilities is arbitrary and without reason," he said.

"A genuine eight-hour day and 48-hour week for women in industry, not the present counterfeit which masquerades under this title.

"The establishment for women and children of an advisory minimum or fair wage board."

BUILDERS ACCEPT 5-DAY WORK WEEK

San Francisco, Jan. 11.—The Builders' Exchange accepted the five-day week for mechanics employed on building construction. The same wage rates will apply, and Saturday forenoon will be "considered a holiday and subject to the usual payments for overtime (except that Saturday forenoon will not be considered a holiday for those employed on mechanical emergency repairs)."

The Exchange declares: "It seems advisable that, both employer and employe should have the opportunity of testing the five-day week for building mechanics."

FASCISTS ARE ACTIVE DESPITE DISSOLUTION

New York, Jan. 11.—The Fascist League of North America has dissolved, but this act to Mussolini will operate under another name, declares Dr. Charles Fama, an American of Italian birth who is active in opposing Fascist principles in this country.

Dr. Fama said Secretary of State Stimson's statement, in which the Fascists were absolved from offenses against the American Government, is misleading. It is true, said Dr. Fama, that the Fascists have not interfered with this government, but they have dominated Italians in this country against the interests of Americanism.

In support of his claim that dissolution of the Fascist League of North America is a gesture, Dr. Fama called attention to a copy of Il Grido Della Stirpe (the Voice of the Race), published in this city as an "official organ of Fascism." The December 28 issue of this publication, in announcing the league's dissolution, added: "Fascism in this country is not only far from dead, but will be carried on with renewed vigor."

DALE PENSION BILL PASSED BY SENATE

Washington, Jan. 11.—The Dale-Lehlbach bill, which liberalizes the present federal retirement law, passed the Senate without a dissenting vote. The bill passed the last Congress but was given the "pocket veto" by President Coolidge, and now goes to the House, which is expected to act on it at an early date. The sponsors of the bill are confident that it will meet no such tragic end as it did the last time.

The bill raises the maximum retirement annuity from $1,000 to $1,200 and permits optional retirement after 30 years' service. It also lowers by two years the age at which employes may retire after such a period of service.

ADMIT LOW WAGES

New York, Jan. 11.—A wage rate for carpenters as low as 80 cents an hour was admitted by contractors on city subway work. Union carpenters urge that their rate of $1.50 be recognized.

VETERAN LABOR EDITOR CAMPS ON ANTIS' TRAIL

Dallas, Texas, Jan. 11.—William M. Reilly, veteran trade unionist, editor of the Dallas Craftsman and typical Texas "long horn," gave an exhibition of the old-time printers' vocabulary in last week's issue of his publication. The reason was a statement by the Dallas Anti-Union Association that employers should have the sole right to set wages, as this is the base of "real progress."

Editor "Bill" accepted the challenge. He called on his knowledge of history, economics, arts of pugilistic defense and fact-facing experiences in a reply to the "monkey" organization of the local Chamber of Commerce.

His two-column, first-page article, that "carries the war into Africa," concludes with the statement that "the anti-unionists' theory will be further discussed in next week's issue."

U. S. WORKERS GAIN THRU UNION EFFORT

Washington, Jan. 11.—A list of accomplishments is presented to unorganized federal employes by the National Federation of Federal Employes in launching a nation-wide membership drive.

For 60 years, prior to organization 12 years ago, federal employes did not receive a single benefit of general application, said Luther C. Steward, president of the Federation. During the last 12 years they have raised wages, secured retirement annuities, classification for the District of Columbia and legislation to extend it to the field service, extension of the Saturday half holiday throughout the year and extra pay for night work and overtime.

"This program is not impossible, if Federal employes join with us," said President Steward. "Proof of this is our gains in 12 years."

GREEN'S RADIO TALK HEARD IN AUSTRALIA

Washington, Jan. 11.—A recent radio speech by President Green was heard in far-away Australia. In a letter to Mr. Green, dated November 26, Albert E. Huckerby, general secretary Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employes' Association, writes from Melbourne:

"Last Saturday afternoon, at one of our largest picture theaters, I had the pleasure of hearing your speech. It was wonderful to think I had just cabled you and then to hear you from the screen."

"This message again emphasizes the need of American labor to secure a cleared channel from the Federal Radio Commission," said Mr. Green. "If this channel can be secured for Station WCFL, owned and managed by Chicago Federation of Labor, we can tell to the world the story of American trade unionism and its hopes for a better social order."

ABSENCE OF UNIONS CAUSES NIGHT WORK

Monroe, Ga., Jan. 11.—The absence of unions cause night work for women and children and may result in disorder, declared a social committee of the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Mill owners and legislators are called upon to consider the elimination of women and children from night work in mills. The report said:

"The recent tragic disorders in parts of the textile districts of North Carolina should direct the attention of our State some of the problems of modern industrialism.

"In the lack of unions and in the longer hours of labor our textile industry is carried on under conditions different from those existing in the textile territory in the North. Many fear that in time we may see in our own State strife and disorder similar to that which has occurred in our neighboring Commonwealth."

NEW STEEL COMBINE WINS WELD PROCESS

New York, Jan. 11.—The new $350,000,000 steel merger, built around the Republic Iron and Steel Company, won control of the revolutionary Johnston process for electric welding of steel tubing in Federal District Judge Galston's court.

The effect of the decision will be widely felt outside the steel industry, as the process is used for the manufacture of tubing for the automotive, furniture and many other industries. Electric conduit tubing is an important product. The welding machines cover the method and apparatus which permits the electric welding of the tube at a speed of 65 to 150 feet a minute, against an average of about 12 feet by older processes.

LABOR STARTS SOUTHERN UNION DRIVE

Charlotte Meeting Will Prove Historic---Plans Laid for "Long Pull" Campaign

Charlotte, N. C., Jan. 11.—The Southern organization campaign was launched at a conference in this city amid enthusiasm and determination. There were present 229 delegates, representing 95 trades and callings.

Birmingham, Ala., was selected as headquarters for the campaign which will be directed by a committee consisting of Paul Smith, general organizer A. F. of L.; W. E. Birthright, vice president Journeymen Barbers' Union and secretary Tennessee Federation of Labor; Francis J. Gorman, vice president United Textile Workers.

The conference was called to order by T. A. Wilson, president North Carolina Federation of Labor, who introduced President Green. The A. F. of L. executive, in a speech that brought the delegates to their feet, declared that organized labor will place Southern children in schools, rather than in factories.

"Women and children must not be sacrificed on the altar of industrial servitude," he said. "We fight for an abundant life. We resist industrial despotism and insist that workers be accorded the right to unite with their fellows.

"We come to the South in an attitude of friendliness and helpfulness. We preach co-operation with the State, with the church, and with industry. We are opposed to force and we appeal to the government to defend citizens in their right to organize."

Vice President Woll classed reactionary employers with those responsible for present conditions in Russia. Secretary Frank Morrison reviewed A. F. of L. history and the progress made by organized labor and called on all progressives to aid the campaign.

The speakers also included: President McMahon, United Textile Workers; President Kohn, Upholsterers' International Union; President Baer, International Association of Fire Fighters; Mrs. Florence C. Hanson, secretary-treasurer American Federation of Teachers; Miss Tillie Lindsey, Women's Trade Union League, and these presidents of State Federations of Labor: Wilson, North Carolina; Hurst, Alabama; Patterson, South Carolina; Petry, Georgia; Bowden, Virginia; Laymon, Tennessee, and Adams, Arkansas.

Trade unionists who attended the conference are jubilant at their initial success, and the interest that is manifest. The committee will immediately open headquarters in Birmingham and confer with Southern trade unionists on a definite line of procedure that will be based on continuous and determined effort.

PHRASE COINERS DAZZLE PUBLIC; BASIC FACTS ARE SIDETRACKED

New York, Jan. 11.—Financial writers, in reviewing 1929, agree that new-fangled market theories were shattered and that in every instance old precedents have triumphed.

The public were lured into the stock market by the claim that we are in a new economic era," and that old theories that served as warnings in former years should be abandoned. The recent market upheaval, it is now declared, has justified the old rules.

This viewpoint should be of interest to workers who are led to believe that clever terminology will solve industrial problems. The purpose of these publicity-seeking phrase makers is to acquire a standing as "economists," which can be capitalized.

Stock market tipsters assumed the same pose. They called themselves "investment counsellors," and assured patrons that the new financial system, known as "investment trusts," would stabilize the market. These trusts are organized to "buy the best stocks" and sell when a profit is secured. They are backed by powerful groups and were supposed to be immune from selling waves.

When the market got top-heavy and the crash came, investment trust holdings went down with the rest. The "best stocks" dropped as far and as hard as blue-sky stuff. The extent of these drops is shown in General Motors, which sold for $403 a share on August 20 and $168 on November 13. This is a loss of $235 a share. United States Steel dropped from $261 on September 3 to $150 on November 13. The J. I. Case Company (threshing machines) sold for $467 on September 16 and $130 on November 11. Proportionate losses are recorded in every other stock.

The prophets of "a new economic era" are silent, just as "industrial advisors" pass from the scene when workers face wage reductions after they placed their trust in the company "union," welfare schemes and employes' stock ownership.

LARGE NET INCOME SHOWN BY RAILWAYS

New York, Jan. 11.—Last year was the most prosperous for railroads since the World War, according to the American Railway Association. Net profits totaled $1,282,000,000, that were made possible, it was said, by the "highest operating efficiency and economy ever attained."

More powerful locomotives are used, cars have a greater capacity and trains of greater tonnage are speeded up. This process includes the displacement of thousands of workers.

Reduction of employes and increase of their loads is shown in the last report of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The average number of employes during 1929 was 1,656,411, and their total pay was $2,826,590,000. This is a drop in round numbers of 100,000 workers and a gain of $100,000,000 in wages, as compared to the year 1927.

At the same time, the reduced force of workers in 1928 handled 4,073,000,000 more ton-miles of revenue freight than the larger force handled the previous year.

HIGHER AGE LIMIT IN SCHOOL FAVORED

Boston, Jan. 11.—A proposal to raise the compulsory school attendance age to 16 years is recommended by a State legislative committee. Employers are assured the plan is "good business" for them.

"Such an advance," the report says, "would provide additional educational opportunities, enable boys and girls to acquire a higher social standard and also give to the industries of the commonwealth a more intelligent and semi-skilled worker, thereby enabling industry to produce a larger quantity and better quality of goods at little or no increase in its pay rolls."

SAFETY-AT-SEA LAW IGNORED, SHIP OWNERS ARE PROTECTED

Washington, Jan. 11.—Section 13 of the Seamen's act, which provides for examination of seamen, and assures safety at sea, is ignored, according to a memorandum on this subject by Andrew Furuseth, president International Seamen's Union.

The law provides that a certificate as able seamen shall be issued by any board of local inspectors "upon proof being made to said board by affidavit and examination before said board approved by the Secretary of Commerce."

"No attempt is made to examine the applicant, whose affidavit is accepted at its face value," said Mr. Furuseth.

"Affidavits are forged, sold and stolen. The shipowner has no interest in these proceedings. He is interested in cheap labor, rather than skilled seamen. He cares nothing for safety at sea and his liability to travelers and shippers has been practically abolished through limitation of liability. His vessel and cargo are insured and it is covered in overhead expense, which is passed on to the shipper and traveler. The shipowner has ceased to have any but a sentimental interest in safety, and hence in the skill of the men employed."

The shipowner, Mr. Furuseth points out, secures the cheapest men available. Men are shipped regardless of nationality or race, with or without previous experience, and with or without knowledge of the language of officers who issue orders, the prompt execution of which all safety depends.

FOXY FARMERS FIGHT CHILD LABOR RELIEF

Philadelphia, Jan. 11.—New Jersey farmers are using the age-old tactics of employers in fighting labor legislation, according to a statement by the research department of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers.

The farmers are charged with indicting the "hypocritical evasions and shoddy camouflage" to resist legislation regulating child labor on truck farms and in canneries.

"These farmers," it is stated, "will attend conferences and 'co-operate' with anyone seeking for them an interpretation, but the plan under consideration is always a new idea to them, and will require deliberation and gradual experimentation so that 'hardship will be worked on no one.' The fact of the matter is that this pose is completely unreal. The farmers know all about the child labor problem and have maintained an effective but concealed lobby for several sessions of the legislature to defeat any bill that will limit their exploitation of little children. The farmers know what the child labor organizations are doing, but assume an attitude of bland ignorance of the problem to conceal their stubborn determination to prevent correction of this evil."

MICHIGAN LABOR LAW NULLIFIED BY COURT

Lansing, Mich., Jan. 11.—The State law which compels building owners to provide seats for women elevator operators is outlawed by the State Supreme Court.

This law, for more than 20 years, has been interpreted by State officials as applying to females operating elevators, on account of the reference in the section to "operatives" and to the use of the words "in any trade or occupation."

Legal hairsplitters on the State Supreme Court, however, rule otherwise. They declare that the law does not include or apply to women elevator operators, and that it will be necessary to specifically mention them in the act.

REFERENDUM SUPREME; LAWMAKERS CAN'T CHECK

Santa Fe, N. Mex., Jan. 11.—Provision of the New Mexico constitution reserving to the people the power of referendum and setting out certain steps by which this power is to be exercised is self-executing, the State Supreme Court has held, despite an additional provision that the legislature shall enact "laws necessary for the effective exercise of the power hereby reserved."

The court ruled that the legislature has only power to make the constitutional provision effective.